
SENATE BILL 5320

State of Washington 68th Legislature 2023 Regular Session

By Senators Saldaña, Keiser, King, Randall, and C. Wilson

Read first time 01/12/23. Referred to Committee on Labor & Commerce.

1 AN ACT Relating to journey level electrician certifications of
2 competency; amending RCW 19.28.191; and declaring an emergency.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 19.28.191 and 2020 c 153 s 26 are each amended to
5 read as follows:

6 (1) Upon receipt of the application, the department shall review
7 the application and determine whether the applicant is eligible to
8 take an examination for the master journey level electrician, journey
9 level electrician, master specialty electrician, or specialty
10 electrician certificate of competency.

11 (a) To be eligible to take the examination for a master journey
12 level electrician certificate of competency, the applicant must have
13 possessed a valid journey level electrician certificate of competency
14 for four years.

15 (b) To be eligible to take the examination for a master specialty
16 electrician certificate of competency, the applicant must have
17 possessed a valid specialty electrician certificate of competency, in
18 the specialty applied for, for two years.

19 (c) To be eligible to take the examination for a journey level
20 certificate of competency, the applicant must have (~~successfully~~
21 ~~completed an~~);

1 (i) Successfully completed the work experience and education
2 requirements of an 8,000 hour electrical construction trade
3 apprenticeship program approved under chapter 49.04 RCW ((or
4 equivalent apprenticeship program approved by the department for the
5 electrical construction trade in which the applicant worked in the
6 electrical construction trade for a minimum of eight thousand
7 hours)). Four thousand of the hours ((shall)) must be ((in)) new
8 industrial or commercial ((electrical installation)) installations
9 under the supervision of a master journey level electrician or
10 journey level electrician and not more than a total of ((four
11 thousand)) 4,000 hours in all specialties under the supervision of a
12 master journey level electrician, journey level electrician, master
13 specialty electrician working in that electrician's specialty, or
14 specialty electrician working in that electrician's specialty.
15 Specialty electricians with less than a ((four thousand)) 4,000 hour
16 work experience requirement cannot credit the time required to obtain
17 that specialty towards qualifying to become a journey level
18 electrician. The holder of a specialty electrician certificate of
19 competency with a ((four thousand)) 4,000 hour work experience
20 requirement shall be allowed to credit the work experience required
21 to obtain that certificate towards apprenticeship requirements for
22 qualifying to take the examination for a journey level electrician
23 certificate of competency;

24 (ii) Successfully completed an 8,000 hour electrical construction
25 trade apprenticeship program in another jurisdiction equivalent to an
26 apprenticeship program approved under chapter 49.04 RCW. Four
27 thousand of the hours must be new electrical installations in
28 industrial or commercial facilities;

29 (iii) An out-of-state journey level electrician certificate
30 obtained through examination by a state licensing jurisdiction
31 requiring at least 8,000 hours of supervised experience in the
32 electrical construction trade installing and maintaining electrical
33 wiring and equipment for installations of a type regulated under this
34 chapter. Four thousand of the hours must be new industrial or
35 commercial installations. All experience applied toward qualifying
36 for examination must be experience gained in the state that issued
37 the certificate or military experience not exceeding that allowed
38 under this chapter, or both;

39 (iv) At least 16,000 hours of out-of-state experience in the
40 electrical construction trade installing and maintaining electrical

1 wiring and equipment for installations of a type regulated under this
2 chapter. Four thousand of the hours must be new industrial or
3 commercial installations; or

4 (v) Eight thousand hours of experience in the electrical
5 construction trade installing and maintaining electrical wiring and
6 equipment for installations of a type regulated under this chapter
7 while serving in a construction battalion in the armed forces of the
8 United States.

9 (d) To be eligible to take the examination for a specialty
10 electrician certificate of competency, the applicant must have:

11 (i) Worked in the residential (as specified in WAC
12 296-46B-920(2)(a)), pump and irrigation (as specified in WAC
13 296-46B-920(2)(b)), sign (as specified in WAC 296-46B-920(2)(d)),
14 limited energy (as specified in WAC 296-46B-920(2)(e)),
15 nonresidential maintenance (as specified in WAC 296-46B-920(2)(g)),
16 or other new nonresidential specialties as determined by the
17 department in rule under the supervision of a master journey level
18 electrician, journey level electrician, master specialty electrician
19 working in that electrician's specialty, or specialty electrician
20 working in that electrician's specialty for a minimum of (~~four~~
21 ~~thousand~~) 4,000 hours;

22 (ii) Worked in the appliance repair specialty as determined by
23 the department in rule, restricted nonresidential maintenance as
24 determined by the department in rule, the equipment repair specialty
25 as determined by the department in rule, the pump and irrigation
26 specialty other than as defined by (d)(i) of this subsection or
27 domestic pump specialty as determined by the department in rule, or a
28 specialty other than the designated specialties in (d)(i) of this
29 subsection for a minimum of the initial ninety days, or longer if set
30 by rule by the department. The restricted nonresidential maintenance
31 specialty is limited to a maximum of 277 volts and 20 amperes for
32 lighting branch circuits and/or a maximum of 250 volts and 60 amperes
33 for other circuits excluding the replacement or repair of circuit
34 breakers. The department may alter the scope of work for the
35 restricted nonresidential maintenance specialty by rule. The initial
36 period must be spent under one hundred percent supervision of a
37 master journey level electrician, journey level electrician, master
38 specialty electrician working in that electrician's specialty, or
39 specialty electrician working in that electrician's specialty. After
40 this initial period, a person may take the specialty examination. If

1 the person passes the examination, the person may work unsupervised
2 for the balance of the minimum hours required for certification. A
3 person may not be certified as a specialty electrician in the
4 appliance repair specialty or in a specialty other than the
5 designated specialties in (d)(i) of this subsection, however, until
6 the person has worked a minimum of (~~two thousand~~) 2,000 hours in
7 that specialty, or longer if set by rule by the department;

8 (iii) Successfully completed an approved apprenticeship program
9 under chapter 49.04 RCW for the applicant's specialty in the
10 electrical construction trade; or

11 (iv) In meeting the training requirements for the pump and
12 irrigation or domestic pump specialties, the individual shall be
13 allowed to obtain the experience required by this section at the same
14 time the individual is meeting the experience required by RCW
15 18.106.040(1)(d). After meeting the training requirements provided in
16 this section, the individual may take the examination and upon
17 passing the examination, meeting additional training requirements as
18 may still be required for those seeking a pump and irrigation, or a
19 domestic pump specialty certificate as defined by rule, and paying
20 the applicable fees, the individual must be issued the appropriate
21 certificate. The department may include an examination for specialty
22 plumbing certificate defined in RCW 18.106.010(14)(c) with the
23 examination required by this section. The department, by rule and in
24 consultation with the electrical board, may establish additional
25 equivalent ways to gain the experience requirements required by this
26 subsection. The department shall establish a single document for
27 those who have received both an electrical specialty certification as
28 defined by this subsection and have also met the certification
29 requirements for the specialty plumber as defined by RCW
30 18.106.010(14)(c), showing that the individual has received both
31 certifications. No other experience or training requirements may be
32 imposed.

33 (e) Any applicant for a journey level electrician certificate of
34 competency who has successfully completed a two-year program in the
35 electrical construction trade at public community or technical
36 colleges, or not-for-profit nationally accredited technical or trade
37 schools licensed by the workforce training and education coordinating
38 board under chapter 28C.10 RCW, may substitute up to two years of the
39 technical or trade school program for two years of work experience
40 under a master journey level electrician or journey level electrician

1 required under the apprenticeship program. The applicant shall obtain
2 the additional two years of work experience required in industrial or
3 commercial electrical installation prior to the beginning, or after
4 the completion, of the technical school program. Any applicant who
5 has received training in the electrical construction trade in the
6 armed service of the United States may be eligible to apply armed
7 service work experience towards qualification to complete an
8 apprenticeship and take the examination for the journey level
9 electrician certificate of competency.

10 (f) An applicant for a specialty electrician certificate of
11 competency who, after January 1, 2000, has successfully completed a
12 two-year program in the electrical construction trade at a public
13 community or technical college, or a not-for-profit nationally
14 accredited technical or trade school licensed by the workforce
15 training and education coordinating board under chapter 28C.10 RCW,
16 may substitute up to one year of the technical or trade school
17 program for one year of work experience under a master journey level
18 electrician, journey level electrician, master specialty electrician
19 working in that electrician's specialty, or specialty electrician
20 working in that electrician's specialty. Any applicant who has
21 received training in the electrical construction trade in the armed
22 services of the United States may be eligible to apply armed service
23 work experience towards qualification to take the examination for an
24 appropriate specialty electrician certificate of competency.

25 (g) The department must determine whether hours of training and
26 experience in the armed services or school program are in the
27 electrical construction trade and appropriate as a substitute for
28 hours of work experience. The department must use the following
29 criteria for evaluating the equivalence of classroom electrical
30 training programs and work in the electrical construction trade:

31 (i) A two-year electrical training program must consist of
32 (~~three thousand~~) 3,000 or more hours.

33 (ii) In a two-year electrical training program, a minimum of
34 (~~two thousand four hundred~~) 2,400 hours of student/instructor
35 contact time must be technical electrical instruction directly
36 related to the scope of work of the electrical specialty. Student/
37 instructor contact time includes lecture and in-school lab.

38 (iii) The department may not allow credit for a program that
39 accepts more than (~~one thousand~~) 1,000 hours transferred from
40 another school's program.

1 (iv) Electrical specialty training school programs of less than
2 two years will have all of the above student/instructor contact time
3 hours proportionately reduced. Such programs may not apply to more
4 than fifty percent of the work experience required to attain
5 certification.

6 (v) Electrical training programs of less than two years may not
7 be credited towards qualification for journey level electrician
8 unless the training program is used to gain qualification for a
9 (~~four thousand~~) 4,000 hour electrical specialty.

10 (h) No other requirement for eligibility may be imposed.

11 (2) The department shall establish reasonable rules for the
12 examinations to be given applicants for certificates of competency.
13 In establishing the rules, the department shall consult with the
14 board. Upon determination that the applicant is eligible to take the
15 examination, the department shall so notify the applicant, indicating
16 instructions for taking the examination.

17 (3) No noncertified individual may work unsupervised more than
18 one year beyond the date when the trainee would be eligible to test
19 for a certificate of competency if working on a full-time basis after
20 original application for the trainee certificate. For the purposes of
21 this section, "full-time basis" means (~~two thousand~~) 2,000 hours.

22 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** This act is necessary for the immediate
23 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of
24 the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes
25 effect July 1, 2023.

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